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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Continuation Application of :
DAVID EDWARD WILSON, ET AL. : Confirmation No.: 1164
Serial No. 09/759,552 : Group Art Unit 3752
Filed January 12, 2001 : Examiner: R. Evans
Title: Electrostatic Spray Device :

Response to Restriction Requirement/Election of Species

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Official Action mailed on March 26, 2002, which set a one month period for response. A petition to extend the period for response one month to May 26th is submitted herewith in order that this response is deemed timely.

Restriction Requirement/Election of Species

The Office asserts that the present application contains claims directed to various patentably distinct species of the claimed invention as shown in Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The Office is therefore requiring Applicant under 35 USC §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicants provisionally elect with traversal to prosecute the specie embodied in Figure 1 of the above-identified application. One skilled in the art would easily appreciate that each of Figures 1-5 shows minor permutations of the same invention which in this case is an electrostatic spray device that maintains a consistent charge to mass ratio in order to maintain a consistent target spray quality. Figure 3 merely shows the replacement of the bleeder resistor 160 of Figure 1 with the electrical switch 200, such as a transistor. Figure 2 merely shows the inclusion of a mechanical switch 190, which can be provided to reduce the effects of after-spray. This mechanical switch is an alternative to the bleeder resistor 160 of Figure 1. Figure 4 shows the incorporation of a high voltage electrical switch 200 as an alternative embodiment. Figure 5 illustrates an alternative configuration in which the bleeder resistor 160 is connected between the voltage multiplier 130 and the current limiting resistor 170 and a point at a lower potential. A skilled artisan would easily recognize that that each of these figures just shows various versions of the same invention.